

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Toshimi YAMASHITA  
Title: CHARGER AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: 03/17/2004  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

### **TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

### **RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The relevance of foreign-language documents A7 and A8 is described in the present specification.

Document A4 discloses a cleaning device that is moved back and forth in the longitudinal direction of a needle-like electrode. The cleaning device uses four blades made of flexible sheets and these blades are rotated for cleaning.

Document A5 discloses a corona discharge electrode having a saw-tooth portion rotatably provided. The discharge electrode is rotated, and the tip end of its saw-tooth portion is brought into contact with a cleaning member. Thus, discharged products are scraped off the tip end of the saw-tooth portion. This document is also discussed in the specification.

Document A6 discloses a cylindrical cleaning member which is soft and adapted to clean a saw-tooth discharge portion. The tip end of the discharge portion is cleaned by moving the cleaning member along a plate electrode. This document is also discussed in the specification.

Documents A1 and A8 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

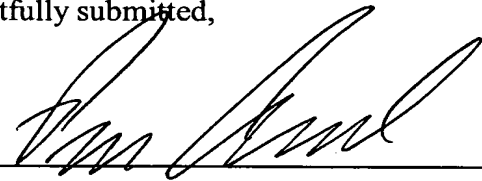
English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Date March 17, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone: (202) 945-6162

Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 40,888

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: March 17, 2004  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	March 17, 2004
				Filing Date	03/17/2004
				First Named Inventor	Toshimi YAMASHITA
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	016907-1622

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A1	5,563,692		CHO	10-08-1996	
	A2	3,842,273		VAN BUSKIRK	10-15-1974	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A3	10/679,363		YAMASHITA	10-07-2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	A4	JP	7-043990	A	MINOLTA CAMERA CO., LTD.	02-14-1995		Abstract
	A5	JP	11-327265	A	KONICA CORP.	11-26-1999		Abstract
	A6	JP	9-211940	A	KONICA CORP.	08-15-1997		Abstract
	A7	JP	6-194934	A	RICOH CO., LTD.	07-15-1994		Abstract
	A8	JP	7-049606	A	HYUNDAI ELECTRON IND.	02-21-1995		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.